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MATWATCH

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STEVE'S SIDELIGHTS
By Steve Beverly

Mr. R.E. (Ted) Turner Jr.
One CNN Center
Atlanta GA 30303

Dear Ted:

In 1971, when you were still a struggling independent TV station owner, you convinced Paul Jones to move his Georgia NWA wrestling show to your then WTCG. It flourished, you flourished, and GEORGIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING became the first Channel 17 program ever to reach 100,000 homes in Atlanta.

Four years later, you made GCW one of the nation's first two-hour local wrestling programs. You were the catalyst who made Gordon Solie a national star and the commentator of commentators. You gave us the big names when WTCG went on satellite. Saturdays, we were treated to Brisco, Race, Funk, Wrestling II, Woods, Andre, Watts, Anderson, Koloff, Hansen, Backlund. When you became WTBS, you introduced us to a bumper crop of younger stars: Rich, Sawyer, DiBiase, Atlas, Reed, Brody, Brad Armstrong, Horner, Bundy, Roberts, and a couple of easy riders known as The Road Warriors.

When Vince McMahon bought his way onto the SuperStation in 1984, you still found a morning slot for the Ole & Solie Show. Some of us purists were uncomfortable with Vince's machinations to become a czar. In one move, you kept it from happening in '85 by forcing him off WTBS and bringing back NWA wrestling to a prime weekend slot. For 17 weeks, you also gave us that appealing alternative, Bill Watts' MID-SOUTH WRESTLING.

Early on, the Crockett organization appeared to be giving people a clear and welcome choice in pro wrestling: a 10-week Championship Challenge Series, importing outside talent such as Michael Hayes, Billy Jack Haynes, Watts, Rick Rude, and an occasional drop-in from Harley Race. Of course, things did change in the business and old relationships were severed, which were beyond your control. The erosion of talent-sharing brought a sameness to the feuds, the matches, and the TV shows. In 1986, WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING took its first major ratings nosedive.

Still, Crockett owned the most capable talent in the profession. From seemingly nowhere, he bought promotions in Florida and Watts' fast-rising UWF. Suddenly, we had a fresh reason to care about your shows: talent crossovers and the illusion of a full-scale war between implied rival alliances. Non-WWF wrestling was fun again.

Almost as quickly, it all died. You have to know something about it, otherwise you wouldn't be looking into buying a wrestling company. Talent began leaving Crockett at an accelerated pace; those who remained became the topic of rumored increased discontent. A disappointing Starrcade, an abortion called The Bunkhouse Stampede, and several creative decisions made by ego cracked the foundation of this once-respected group. Plus, the UWF was dissolved without as much as a token mention to the audience.

As the Winter of Our Discontent ebbed and Vince appears on his way to the prime minister's seat, you give us CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS, possibly the best live made-for-U.S.-TV card ever. We, the audience, see emerging perhaps the best young star in the NWA in five years---STING. But almost overnight, the flame flickers and we're asked to care again about an overweight, overhyped aging star reviving an old gimmick he used in Florida. This time, we don't care.

Despite the hype and a relatively successful GREAT AMERICAN BASH tour, Jim Crockett Promotions hasn't recovered. No doubt, your quarterly national ratings sheets have told you WCW is drawing its lowest numbers ever.

Ted, you've always put your audience first. You've pioneered, you've hired bright people, and engineered triumphs even your best friends thought impossible. Saturday pro wrestling has been a traditional linchpin for WTBS. In the early years and the satellite years. It can still be. It must be.

Like the competitive scares you have sent to the big 3 networks, Vince McMahon deserves an equivalent scare and the wrestling audience deserves a quality alternative to the imposing WWF. Only competition guarantees that.

When your fellow broadcaster, David Woods, bought a wrestling company a few months back, some of his colleagues felt he was crazy (you've heard that one before). But listen to those who now are all eyes on the Continental federation. Woods knows TV and he knew to hire capable wrestling people to breed success. Your similar talents, Ted, are legendary.

Some people say buying the NWA would be wasteful. Maybe so. But you have people skilled in production, promotion, creativity and marketing. You are smart enough to seek the best wrestling minds and talent to rekindle the old excitement of the NWA. You're intuitive enough to know that this won't be

accomplished with a pat hand, even if it means painful management changes.

Mr. Turner, as a long-time admirer of yours and a veteran wrestling observer, I appeal to you to take control of the NWA and do so before it becomes a shell of its once-proud self. It is in the best interest of the audience...and that makes it in the best interest of Ted Turner.

A MATWATCHer of the first order,

STEVE BEVERLY

COMINGS & GOINGS

BIGGEST NEWS this week is the completed sale of Ron Fuller's USA Championship Wrestling to David Woods. Woods, who originally bought the Continental group from Fuller earlier this year, finalized the deal last Monday night in Birmingham in between TV tapings. This was the situation I alluded to four weeks ago. A purchase price was not announced but I've been told it was not high as Fuller was looking to get out from under enormous financial losses.

---Fuller was spending $12,000 (not including Gordon Solie's salary) every three weeks to tape TV in Knoxville. But house shows outside of Knoxville were disastrous. The CWF will now take over TV slots in Knoxville and Chattanooga. Recently, the CWF has added Jackson, Biloxi, Baton Rouge and West Monroe, LA to its TV network.

---Most of the USA talent will not be retained. The Bullet will do some shows, though I'm told he may cut back on his schedule. Scott Armstrong may stay, too, and probably Doug Furnas for the sake of the Tennessee markets. But Woods and Eddie Gilbert aren't interested in resurfacing the talent which nearly killed Continental.

---The date for the Road to Birmingham supercard in Boutwell Auditorium has now been set for Oct. 3. The Bullet will be penciled in as one of the ten men in the tourney to pick a first CWF champ. Bet on Furnas being there, too, along with Gilbert and Idol, but the rest of it is still up in the air.

---Two weeks ago, the CWF turned its first weekly profit since Woods took over and last week, bettered that by $8,000. With the end of USA, Continental may soon go to a "B" show taping. This is the hottest group going, friends.

---The CWF shows for this coming weekend and next are said by Charlie Platt to be "the hottest I've done in my whole career." This weekend, the Samoans hold Missy Hyatt for Alan Martin to kiss. On the Aug. 20 show, Charlie brings out Gilbert alone and exposes the fact that Eddie and Missy are married." Most of the Birmingham crowd doesn't know this and they go nuts. Charlie confronts Eddie about how he could let Alan Martin get away with kissing his wife. Says Eddie: "She's got to learn if she's going to get out here in the ring, she's got to take care of herself." Missy arrives and Eddie says, "I told you needed to stay in the kitchen and clean up the dishes." Missy: "Eddie Gilbert, I've got money of my own, so maybe I'll just go off somewhere with Mr. Martin." The two continue their squabble as the show goes off the air and the crowd buys it as a legit domestic tiff. You FNN viewers can't miss this!

---Steve Chamberlain of Turner Home Entertainment has provided MATWATCH with the BASH PPV figures with 99% of the U.S. reporting. The buy-in rate was 2.2%, indeed lower than anticipated, or 190,000 homes. This includes buy-ins for the home dish market.

---Chamberlain told me the Bash was profitable for all parties, even with the low buy-in. "We feel that if we can get double the number of buys with our first pay-per-view show that most concerts draw, we're on the right track." Even so, I figure at liberal best the profits to be split are $400,000; Crockett's share won't be enough to meet Lex Luger's balloon payment, much less the other stars.

---The regional splits on the Bash were: SOUTH, 4-8%; NORTHEAST, 1-1.7%; WEST, under 1%; MIDWEST, 2.5-3%. This says to me that JCP is still regarded as a decent Southern promotion and has a handle in the old key middle America NWA states, but just has no image or a poor one in the huge entertainment media markets.

---All the key PPV companies have signed to carry the next Turner/NWA pay show, tentatively scheduled in December and on the books right now as The Bunkhouse Stampede (heavens, no!), but don't bet on that format if JCP is sold. Maybe the Dusty Rhodes-Maxwell House Coffee-Match Light Bunkhouse Stampede if it isn't.

---Finally, Chamberlain says don't expect more than two PPV wrestling shows a year from Turner for now. "With all of the cable investors in TBS right now and with the number of shows the WWF is doing, there's a strong feeling of oversaturation," said Chamberlain. "We're getting a bit concerned about the cable subscriber suddenly seeing $40, $50, or $60 on his bill with too many pay events."

---To show you the difference in JCP and Titan: last Monday after the SUMMER SLAM '88 card was announced, USA TODAY plugged it in its LIFE section; ne'ery a mention of the Bash during July.

---I expect SUMMER SLAM to do respectable and much more profitable business than the Bash, but far less than Wrestlemania. The Hogan return will probably hit big and there will be a good bit of curiousity in the Demolition-Harts match, but the rest of the card strikes me as the similar to the NWA's layout for

CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS II, acceptable matches but nothing like the SUPER BOWL.

---By the way, Mean Gene Okerlund's return to the SUPERSTARS show last weekend was one of the most unheralded resurrections of the year.

---If Turner does take over the NWA and Jim and Dusty are scratched, expect Gordon Solie to at least be approached about returning to the TBS show in some capacity. He's still close to Turner executives.

---LEARNING THE ROPES, that Lyle Alzado sitcom Crockett has a stake in and The Road Warriors and other NWA wrestlers will appear in beginning in September, has cleared 77 stations in 82% of the country, including 22 of the top 25 markets. Latest to sign: KTLA (Los Angeles), KBHK (San Francisco), WPHL (Phiadelphia). What's going to be cute is if some of the wrestlers are working for Vince or other promoters by the time LEARNING premieres.

---Big doings from the Seattle Bash: first, my Northwest correspondent Glenn Fox reports the tickets were screwed up. The first 1,000 had the Seattle Coliseum as the site. When the fans arrived, they were given signs directing them to the much smaller Civic Center Arena. Some fans did not get the same seat locations as they would have had in the Coliseum and ticket agents were blaming Crockett (why am I not surprised?).

---Crockett featured three Seattle matches using Don Owen wrestlers in a bit of a surprise. Mike Golden won the opener in a DQ over The Grappler when Grappler hit Golden with a bat. The Southern Rockers kept the Pacific Northwest tag belts in a 10-minute draw with Col. DeBeers & Buddy Rose. The Avalanche beat Billy Two Eagles in 3:00 but I'm told Two Eagles did two super jumps off the top rope onto Avalanche on the floor.

---In JCP matches, Larry Zbyszko beat Kendall Windham in 3:00. Glenn says the fans called Kendall "toothpick" but the chant of "Larry SUX" was back. And Larry Z grabbed the mike and retorted, "Seattle SUX"; Al Perez, in a suit, took a forfeit over no-show Mighty Wilbur; Jimmy Garvin beat Kevin Sullivan in 5:00 in a taped fist match (Precious got a slap on Kevin, too).

---In a four-star 2-on-3 bunkhouse, the Fantastics pinned Cornette (and beat the Midnight Express in the process) Jimmy C. was lashed, too; in about the 12th rerun of the Bash tour, Steve Williams and Mike Rotunda went to a double COR. Doc juiced and left the ring with the belt; in an 8-man cage match, The Road Warriors/Nikita Koloff/Lex Luger defeated the Four Horsemen when Animal crashed onto Tully from the top rope. Arn, Tully, and Flair all juiced in another ****, but Nikita was terrible.

---Finally, for the second straight week, JCP wins the Stupid Turn of the Week Award. In Seattle, Sting & Dick Murdoch (more on that pairing in a moment) defeated Uncle Ivan & Ronnie Garvin in 8:00 when Sting, the hottest guy all night, reversed a whip and crashed Ivan into Paul Jones. Afterward, Jones & Ivan vehemently argue and Ronnie G. decks Uncle Ivan. Do I detect a reunion of Nikita & Uncle Ivan as faces and do you really care?

---Two weeks ago, I told you about a tag team reforming after a heel turned face. It happened in Detroit: Dick Murdoch turns face during the Dusty-Sheik vs. Sullivan-Murdoch finale and will rekindle The Texas Outlaws with Dusty. Can you remember the last time Murdoch didn't die as a face in the U.S.? Maybe in '82 when he feuded with Buzz Sawyer in Georgia, but even that was a short-term series.

---This Samoan Swat Team really impresses me more every time I see them in World Class. Their workrate is impressive and giving them Buddy Roberts as a manager will probably abet them in getting over.

---If it hasn't already happened by the time you read this, expect Brad & Bart Batten to have the Southern tag belts for Jerry Blackwell's group.

---Jerry Jarrett finally got a poke at Sylvia Fuller last week at the Mid-South Coliseum, which has Robert hot-to-trot on TV interviews. But too much Fuller is about like watching Morton Downey Jr.---too much volume and not enough substance.

---With Robert Gibson on the see-ya list, Ricky Morton is teamed with Brad Armstrong as The Rock & Lightning Express. Maybe we'll eventually have the ultimate hybrid: a War Games with the Rock & Midnight Lightning Fantastic Rocker Express. Robert's leaving does kill what could have been a fine feud with The Fantastics.

---Curt Hennig has crossed the river. He signed with Vince and was on the WWF Tacoma card on 7/29 in the opener defeating Scott Casey.

---Word is that Larry SUX will jump back to the AWA (he was doing jobs for Bugsy McGraw last week). With Hennig gone, if Larry returns he may be the only heel with semi-acceptable qualifications to take the belt if and when Lawler decides to quit traveling.

Finally, from the Atlanta Constitution: the forthcoming Hulk Hogan flick introduces the Hulkster's "little brother," named---you guessed it---Randy. I suppose Hulk tries to save his sibling from the terrible fate of being a TBS jobber.

PROMOTER'S PROFILE: AWA

"Tuesday night Slams & Jams. Catch all the action on ESPN."

Has it really been three years since The Total Sports Network was luring us with the prospect of ninety weekly minutes with Sgt. Slaughter, The Road Warriors, King Kong Brody, Nick Bockwinkel, Rick Martel, Larry Zbyszko and company---and maybe an occasional NWA crossover?

Further, do you realize that even in a buried midnight weekend time slot and with perhaps the worst talent of any promotion which once could lay claim to being a major, AWA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING remains the top-rated weekly program on ESPN outside of NFL FOOTBALL?

About two years ago, I told Gordon Solie this group reminded me of the Seniors Circuit on the PGA tour. Now, I'm not willing to desecrate the great legends of golf by lumping them in with the AWA. The last three weeks of TV shows from this group can't even be called an embarrassment. The quality of their matches makes the NWA look like the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in perfect harmony.

When your main event is Medusa Maceli, hardly a time-tested veteran, vs. a former GLOW girl, you ought to be sued for a breach of professionalism. If the ESPN executives would wake up long enough to understand what they have on their hands here, they'd tear up the contract yesterday.

Face it, the AWA---since declaring itself a booking office three months back---is subsisting on its ESPN deal about like farmers in Ethiopia. Here is a group that in September 1985 gave us a terrific crossover title match on TV between Sgt. Slaughter and Ric Flair that had Flair in the cobra clutch at the bell. Here is a group which produced as late as 28 months ago one of the best supercards of 1986 in WrestleRock. Of course, Verne Gagne still had access to the Warriors, Michael Hayes, Bockwinkel, Stan Hansen, Brody, Barry Windham, Mike Rotundo, The Fabulous Ones....I get nauseous just thinking about it.

This is nothing new, but somehow Verne appears like the mom and pop hardware store owner who suddenly sees Ace, True Value, West, and Lowe's pop up in his same block and believes his old customers will one day drift back to him. This is the same Verne Gagne who just gave us the innovative angle of Manny Fernandez tearing up the Indian headdress of Wahoo McDaniel, something I first saw done in 1966 by The Masked Medics when Wahoo was first starring in Florida. Get me to the nearest SEATS location for a ringside seat to this spinetingling feud.

The only thing I have given Gagne credit for in recent history is having the good sense to let the Memphis group control the AWA belt. At least by defending the title in virtually every promotion other than the AWA itself, Jerry Lawler has redeemed some semblance of value in the belt and particularly in the Continental area, his appearances have been the cherry on the whip cream of the ever-increasing crowds. Which puts Verne in a dilemma.

The original plan had been for Lawler to drop the belt back to Curt Hennig this month as Jerry does not want to maintain a lengthy travel schedule away from Memphis. But Curt has finally jumped to Titanland and no one in the remaining AWA has the power to draw any more than the weekly attendance at the Edith Baptist Church in Fargo, GA.

And Verne actually thinks he can pull off a November pay-per-view show. With talent that juggles more than the old acts on THE ED SULLIVAN SHOW and the first match to be signed a ladies' title affair, who is he kidding? Then again, maybe I hit on the right idea earlier on when I broached the idea to Gordon. Maybe Verne ought to start the first all-seniors wrestling tour. At least it would be more creative than anything in today's AWA.

I REMEMBER...
El Mongol vs. Paul DeMarco

The time machine travels back to March 1969. I'm in the tenth grade and some of us still make a few bucks selling pictures for the wrestlers Monday nights at the City Auditorium in Waycross GA.

Usually, we were lucky to get the dregs of a "C" show card from the Georgia promotion as we went head-on against the big arena in Augusta. But tonight, promoter Aaron Newman had pulled some strings and brought us the hottest feud in the Peach State: El Mongol vs. Paul DeMarco, 2-out-of-3 falls, a one-hour time limit.

The Mongol (given name Ngu Kim) had become one of the few heels to generate even more heat as a babyface. The kids flocked to him and adults were endeared to him after he turned on the rotten manager Dandy Jack Crawford. DeMarco was perhaps the late '60s version of Larry Zbyszko or Tully Blanchard: the cockiest hothead in town after a stint as NWA world tag champ with face Lorenzo Parente.

The little auditorium packed in 1,200 that night. Mongol had never been to Waycross before and the fans opened up the waters of the Okefenokee Swamp to him. The workrate of both men would make Randy Savage and Ted DiBiase proud.

The first two falls were split in 16 minutes. At the 29-minute mark, El Mongol pinned DeMarco but Paul stuck his foot on the ropes after the three-count. The referee would not allow the pin and James Pittman, the 66-year-old high school custodian who always had the night's first ringside seat, came unglued from his seat. DeMarco began working the crowd like Larry Z after he knocked out Nick Bockwinkel.

Finally, at the 33-minute mark, Mongol scored with his own deviousness and rolled DeMarco up for the three-count using the ropes for leverage. DeMarco was so hot, he picked up a huge orange trash barrel and slung it on the auditorium stage where some children were perched. But a little 10-year-old retaliated in his own kind. He picked up one of the building's wooden double chairs and slung it into DeMarco's side.

Paul then legit went after the kid and that's all it took: here came Pittman and about a dozen other fans to the rescue (Joe Pedicino wasn't old enough to act as a bouncer then).

Surrounding DeMarco before he could reach the dressing room, they pounded the heel for all of four minutes with every chair in the building. The old janitor proved he may have had a few farm country brawls in his day. Pretty soon, the whole place looked like a scene out of the Long Branch on GUNSMOKE. Order finally restored, DeMarco was carried to Memorial Hospital to treat some contusions. He never came back to Waycross and I had no doubt why.

As for El Mongol, he's serving up delicacies today at his restaurant south of Atlanta. DeMarco? He's probably just this side of a guy called Yuri Gordyenko. But I'll bet he hasn't forgotten his night in Swamptown.

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BONUS

Yep, this is a bonus page...too much news to stop at four pages. Let me add a quick reminder: for all subscription renewals, please send check or money order to STEVE BEVERLY, instead of MATWATCH as indicated on the original subscription form. Thank you very much.

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TV TEMPO (Weekend of Aug. 5-7)

RATING KEY: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS will be added to any rating midway between 2 scales.

(WWC) - Wendi Richter d. Debbie Combs; Victor Jovica d. El Profe; Dutch Mantel and Abdullah the Butcher ended in a no contest and a wild post-match melee. POWERSLAM. Bobby Jaggers' work at the color mike continues strong.

(MEMPHIS) - Phil Hickerson d. Alan Reynolds; Billy Travis & Jeff Jarrett d. Mike Casey & Keith Eric; Robert Fuller destroyed David Johnson; Gary Young d. Randy Foster; Scott Steiner/Shaun Baxter took a DQ over Young/Brickhouse Brown when Fuller interfered. ANGLES: Jerry Jarrett discusses hitting Sylvia Fuller, who shows up bandaged. DRAW.

(CWF) - Tom Prichard d. Mike Starr; Willie B. Hert d. Turbo Ted; Lord Humongous/Shane Douglas retain CWF tag title by DQ over Sgt. Bob Carter/Detroit Demolition when the Samoans & Alan Martin do a run-in; Ken Wayne regains U.S. Jr. heavyweight belt by holding tights to pin Danny Davis. ANGLES: Ron West fines Eddie Gilbert/Paul E. Dangerously "$5,000" for misconduct and buries ex-CWF g.m. Jack Curtis as "bought off" by Eddie & Paul E.; debut of MISSY'S MANOR segment; Pro Wrestling Illustrated photographer Sam Love attacked by Eddie & Paul E. until Austin Idol arrives, pounds Eddie into the ring, takes off his belt and lashes Eddie until he juices, the dressing rooms empty for a pull-apart...as Eddie attempts to leave, he's met by Willie B. Hert who pounds him again as revenge for hitting Willie's son last week. PILEDRIVER. The Idol-Hert-Gilbert brawl was the best since last summer's Sting/Chris Adams vs. Gilbert/Taylor brawl in the UWF.

(SOUTHERN) - M.E.B. d. Chuck Allen; M.O.D. Squad d. Mighty Igor/Bob Emery; arena match: Wrestling II/Ranger Ross d. Buck Robley/Dick Slater in a cage; II d. Paul Diamond; Joel Deaton d. Jamie Kyle; Ross d. Eddie Sweat; Abdullah the Butcher d. Steve Miller and destroys Miller until he juices after the match when Abby uses a steel ladder on the kid. ANGLE: Robley/Slater shown having to clean horse stalls and toilets at Henderson's Auction Barn under supervision of II/Ross. RESTHOLD...only because of the toilet angle and Abby's melee.

(WORLD CLASS) - Tribute to Bruiser Brody; Missing Link d. Steve Whiteford; Michael Hayes/Steve Cox d. Samoan Swat Team by DQ when Buddy Roberts interferes. POWERSLAM.

(NWA) - TBS (Taped 7/26): Varsity Club, Sheepherders, Brad Armstrong, Kevin Sullivan, Bobby Eaton, Al Perez, Dick Murdoch win squashes; best match on the show: Mike Jackson/Curtis Thompson d. Tommy Angel/Bob Riddle when Thompson powerslams Riddle; also Chris Champion d. Don Valentine (yeah, he looks like Greg & Johnny). This was the show where none of the Horsemen, Dusty, Lex, Sting, Doc, Stan Lane, or Ronnie Garvin appeared live (maybe because the Writer's Strike was still in effect). KEY INTERVIEWS: Varsity Club does best interview in months, particularly when Mike and Rick argue over whether Rotunda graduated from Syracuse; J.J. & Cornette have face-to-face insults. BOMB-PLUS; WORLD WIDE: Steve Williams d. Keith Steinborn; Nikita Koloff d. Mr. Olympia (not Jerry Stubbs); Tully & Arn, Sting, Rock & Roll Express, Russian Powers of Pain, win other squashes; Fantastics-Midnights/Cornette 2-on-3 bunkhouse still going as show ends. RESTHOLD...only for last match, but should have been BOMB-PLUS since we didn't see finish. NWA PRO: Rock & Roll Express/Fantastics d. Russian Powers of Pain/Varsity Club in 8-man tag when Ricky pins Uncle Ivan in excellent match; R. Garvin/Perez, Murdoch, Windham, Midnights all win squashes; Dusty sneak attacks Gary Hart with an elbow. DRAW-PLUS; NWA MAIN EVENT: Fantastics/Rock & Rolls d. Russian Powers/Varsity Club; rerun matches: Lex Luger d. Arn Anderson by DQ and Rick Steiner d. Kendall Windham. DRAW.

(USA) - Doug Furnas d. Tony Peters; Scott Armstrong d. J.D. Wolfe but juices heavily afterward

when he's hit with a roll of coins by Nelson Royal; arena match: RPMs d. Johnny/Davey Rich with illegal man; The Louisiana Dog d. Ronnie Travis; The Bullet (Bob Armstrong) takes DQ over Bill Dundee when Gumby hits Bullet with a roll of metal washers. ANGLES: RPM's attack, tar and feather Davey Rich; Ron Wright threatens Ron Fuller at announcer's table, Fuller rises to face off with Wright's bodyguard when Gordon Solie rises to actually try to separate the two. POWERSLAM...a lively show---I hate to see this group's TV dissolve.

(WWF) - SUPERSTARS: "Scary" Terry Taylor debuts with win over Chris Todd using the scorpion leglock; Jake Roberts d. Harley Manson: Don Muraco, the Hart Foundation, Ted DiBiase, Tito Santana, Bolsheviks win other squashes. RESTHOLD...strictly for Jesse's work; ALL-AMERICAN: Bret Hart d. Danny Davis with a piledriver; Demolition d. Sam Houston/J.T. Thomas; The Rockers, Bad News Brown, Greg Valentine, Brutus Beefcake win other squashes; Brother Love seg with Andre/DiBiase. RESTHOLD.

(AWA) - Bad Company d. Scott Hudson/Randy "TNT" Greenway; Curt Hennig d. Greg Robertson; Rocky Mt. Thunder d. Mike Simani; John Paul/Ricky Rice d. Teijho Khan/Soldad Ustinov by DQ; Verne Gagne announces Hennig's "indefinite suspension" (to work in the WWF) and teases planned PPV show. BOMB-PLUS...strictly for last match.

(PWTW) - SCW: Wrestling II d. Buddy Michaels and attacked by Robley/Moondog; WWF: Summer Slam preview; FLAIR: Sunset Rose d. Lace LaRue in finals of elimination tag match; CWF & DANGER ZONE: Gilbert/Dangerously attack on Pez Whatley's son; WORLD CLASS: Kevin Von Erich's forfeit Texas title win over Terry Taylor; USA: Dundee attempt to unmask Bullet; interviews with Robley, Ranger Ross; 7UP WRESTLER OF WEEK: Mr. Wrestling II.

LINES OF THE WEEK: 1. Jim Cornette, TBS, to Dillon: "All you ever drink is ripple and Boone's Farm, you Foster Brooks lookalike." 2. Cornette, TBS: "Tully & Arn thought they were reading a road map in the car the other night when they realized they were looking at J.J.'s varicose veins." 3. Jesse Ventura/Vince McMahon, WWF Superstars: JESSE: "Harley Manson...he wouldn't be any relation to Chuck? VINCE: "Chuck? Maybe Chuck to you." 4. Ventura/McMahon, Superstars: JESSE: "McMahon, why do wrestlers ask the crowd for approval? I never did. VINCE: "You wouldn't have had any." 5. Jim Ross, TBS: "I don't know whether to feel like Marlin Perkins in the Wild Kingdom or Jacques Cousteau when the Sheepherders come out." 6. Ross, TBS: "I'm not a member of the bar...I've been in a few bars." 7. Solie, USA: "Ron (Fuller), I'm glad you kept your cool because for a minute, I was afraid I was gonna get hurt."

STRONGEST COMMENT - Rhubarb Jones, SCW: "I've met some athletes through the years and been very disappointed, like Willie Mays or Johnny Unitas because they were so full of themselves."

DREADED GLITCH AWARD - TBS, for abruptly going to break during Dick Murdoch's interview on reunion of Texas Outlaws.

WATERGATE AWARD - To USA promotion for plugging show in Harbin KY at the Richard Nixon Gym.

BOO AWARD OF THE WEEK - Ron Fuller, USA. For the line "Dundee's said he could prove The Bullet is Bob Armstrong. I don't believe that." Come on, Ron, at least don't play that ignorant.

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THE LAST WORD

---Unconfirmed word is that Invader 1's (Jose Gonzales') trial for the Bruiser Brody murder will be moved to Raleigh NC.

---Bet on a Steve Williams-Mike Rotunda NWA TV title change soon in Tulsa, if Doc doesn't bolt the promotion.